

### **REMARKS**

Receipt of the office action mailed January 3, 2007 is acknowledged. Claims 3-7 are pending in the application. The Abstract has been objected to. Claims 3-5 have been rejected as anticipated by McAllister, while claims 6-7 have been rejected as obvious over McAllister in view of Hampe. In keeping with the foregoing amendments and the following arguments, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

The abstract has been corrected and is now in proper form.

Claim 3 has been amended to positively recite, in part, an opening end portion formed on the cylindrical core body, with the opening end portion having a tip end portion rounded in a semispherical shape when viewed in cross-section. Further, the opening end portion is partially expanded in the radial direction to have a thickness larger than a thickness of a base end side portion of the core body

By comparison, the cross-section of McAllister shown in Fig. 4 of the reference reveals that the “tip end portion” of that reference is not semispherical. Instead, the cross-section of Fig. 4 plainly shows a decidedly rectilinear shape, necessarily excluding any kind of semispherical aspect. Further, McAllister does not have an opening end portion that is partially expanded on the radial direction. Instead, the end portion of McAllister is straight, if not actually tapered somewhat to form a slightly narrowed section. Accordingly, McAllister cannot anticipate claim 3.

The Hampe reference adds nothing of relevance. The inwardly cut step at the bottom extreme of the bit shown in Fig. 2 (adjacent the cross-section labeled “m”) precludes a semispherical shape at the tip end portion.

Accordingly, claim 3 is in allowable form. Claims 4-7 depend from claim 3, either directly or through intervening claims. Therefore, claims 4-7 also are in allowable form.

New claims 8-11 are hereby added. New claims 8-11 are not taught or even suggested by the cited references. Accordingly, the new claims are in allowable form.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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